

served as the Grand Marshall of this year's Madison July 4th Parade.

My friend, Chief of Police John Wallace noted that D.J.'s "fellow MPD officers will greatly miss him."

Captain Stephan is a dedicated public servant and highly regarded by all. I thank Captain Stephan for his service to Madison. I wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

DOD JOINT TASK FORCES TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to make permanent and expand the U.S. Department of Defense's authority to use funds from the counterterrorism and drug interdiction budgetary account for federal interagency Joint Task Forces.

These DOD Joint Task Forces coordinate the military and federal agencies on counter-narcotics, counterterrorism, or counter-transnational organized crime activities. United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service use this Joint Task Forces funding authority to conduct anti-trafficking and poaching activities in Sub-Saharan Africa. As the former Deputy Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration, I strongly support USFWS's International Affairs Program and wildlife conservation work globally, particularly by that agency's law enforcement officers.

Since first authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136), Congress has renewed the authority for these Joint Task Forces several times on a temporary basis. Without Congressional action in the NOAA, this authority will sunset at the end of fiscal year 2022. As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I plan to make permanently reauthorizing this critical authority a priority during the FY2022 NOAA conference negotiations.

In the House-passed FY2020 NOAA (Public Law 116-92), I secured directive report language on the military's support for combating illicit trafficking, including wildlife and wildlife products. Making the authority for these Joint Task Forces permanent builds upon that work.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to continue working with my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to support AFRICOM's efforts with other federal agencies to combat wildlife trafficking and poaching.

KEN KLEIN RETIREMENT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the retirement of Ken Klein, who has served as the Executive Vice President for the Out of Home Advertising Association of America (OAAA) for the past two decades. During his time at OAAA, Ken has

driven the billboard industry into a new era of public service.

Ken spearheaded the OAAA's public-service partnerships with various agencies and non-profits—including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)—to seek new ways to inform and protect Americans.

The FBI partnership is an excellent example of how law enforcement, the private sector, and the public can collectively bring criminals to justice in today's digital age. As a result of Ken's efforts, the FBI has new tools to promote safety and rapidly share information in dangerous situations.

The collaboration and the speed with which digital billboards can publicize crucial fugitive and crime-related information was key to the success of numerous investigative efforts in 2020. For example, outdoor advertising helped nab the "Travelling Bandit"—a serial bank robber—in 2019 and raised awareness on a notorious drug cartel fugitive in 2020 after the individual was added to the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list. All in all, the FBI credits the capture of 58 fugitives as a direct result of billboard publicity.

Digital billboards have also proved to be a vital tool in disaster preparation and response. A case study posted on FEMA's website reports that, "Digital technology enables quick delivery of emergency messages via high-tech billboards. Public-private partnerships harness these high-tech signs to inform the public about weather warnings, evacuation routes, and safety-related information."

Advances in technology mean that the billboard industry can deliver information in ways unavailable a generation ago. The message on a digital billboard can be changed by computer in an instant.

On August 1, 2007, the I-35W Bridge collapsed in Minneapolis. Within 15 minutes, emergency messages were displayed on digital billboards throughout the area.

After Tropical Storm Fay in August of 2008, 37 different messages were displayed on more than 75 digital billboards in 11 counties in Florida.

When Albuquerque experienced a natural gas emergency, the city quickly posted messages on digital billboards asking the public to lower thermostats and reduce hot water usage.

Immediately after the massive Japanese earthquake in 2011, tsunami warnings appeared on digital billboards on the West Coast.

Finally, Ken also led a partnership with the NCMEC. Because of his hard work, more than 500 AMBER Alerts have been displayed on digital billboards across the country. Law enforcement and NCMEC rely on these high-tech signs to help locate missing children and to apprehend child abductors.

Please join me in extending congratulations to Ken, on the occasion of his retirement, for his successful leadership of OAAA's public-private partnerships, and his contributions to public safety.

HONORING LAKETIA MARSHALL-THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a resilient individual, Laketia Marshall-Thomas.

Laketia Marshall-Thomas, a native from Bolton, Mississippi, is the Assistant Superintendent for High Schools with the Jackson Public School District. Mrs. Thomas has served in the field of education for 23 years, which includes her previously serving as Principal of Provine High School from 2011 to 2017, Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal at Lanier High School from August 2009 to May 2011, and Assistant Principal at Whitten Middle School from August 2008 to May 2009. She also served as a Mathematics Coach at Blackburn Middle School from August 2006 to May 2008. She established her career as an educator at Brinkley Middle School where she taught Algebra I and 8th grade mathematics from 1997 to 2006 and served as the Girls' Basketball Coach.

Mrs. Thomas's strong commitment is confirmed as a scholar in her educational achievements, which include Hinds County Public School System and attended Hinds County Agricultural High School. Mrs. Thomas began her post-secondary education at Tougaloo College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry in 1994. She attended Clark Atlanta University, where she pursued a Master of Science degree in Polymer Chemistry and furthered her studies at Mississippi College receiving a Master of Science and an Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership in 2006 and 2008, respectively. She is currently in dissertation status at Mississippi College pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership.

Superior academic performance is at the forefront of her instructional goals and has led to school, community, and district recognition. While serving in leadership capacities at Provine High School, Lanier High School, and Blackburn Middle School, Mrs. Thomas was recognized for moving each school from their underperforming status to a level of satisfactory progress. She has been selected as the High School Division's Administrator of the Year for two years. She led student participation in Jackson State University's statewide S.T.E.M. Team Competition with Lanier High School and Provine High School winning first place, both years of participation. Additionally, the Jackson City Council awarded her the Amos Wright Award for community involvement and superior academic performance in 2012 and 2020, and the Outstanding Leadership in Education Award in 2016. She has also received numerous accolades from faculty, staff, and student organizations in recognition of her leadership, loyalty, and service in public education.

Mrs. Thomas prides herself on keeping her life in balance with a strong commitment to God and a loving family. She is married to Jonathan Thomas, Sr. and they have two sons, the late Jonathan, Jr. and Jonah Thomas. Mrs. Thomas strongly believes that schools are "A Building With Four Walls and Tomorrow Inside".